



Educational Topic

Director of Flight Operations

Related Job Titles:

Airfield Operations Manager

Job Description:

Airfield Operations Officers perform patrols and inspections of the airfield and its facilities and evaluate the operating, safety and security conditions for aircraft. Other required duties include assisting the air traffic control personnel in controlling and monitoring aircraft traffic on the ground and securing facilities. Airfield Operations Officers also perform other essential duties including: Inspecting airfield and related facilities; responding to airport emergencies; enforcing airport rules and regulations; enforcing state and federal rules and regulations; preparing and submitting oral and written reports; enforcing and monitoring airfield security; and enforcing Noise Abatement regulations (i.e.: ensuring that arriving and departing aircraft do not unnecessarily disturb the surrounding communities). Airfield Operations Officers work rotating 8 to 10 hour shifts as the majority of Airfield Operations departments operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Airfield Operations work also involves working with fire department, police department and ambulance personnel as well as with the employees of airlines and other aviation-related agencies and organizations.

Interests / Abilities:

- When you work in a group do you find yourself at the center of all the action?
- Do your friends look to you when decisive action needs to be taken?
- Do you remain calm in the middle of a flurry of activity?
- Can you quickly see how small details, if overlooked, could create a great disturbance?
- Is writing reports is an easy way for you to communicate?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Math
- English
- Science
- Safety and emergency planning

Education / Training Needed:

Military training and experience including flight school and aviation school is helpful. College studies in an Aviation or Aviation-related field and internships, (college and post college) in an Aviation Operations or related field is necessary. Non-pilot Aviation Operations experience, in and out of the military or employment in Aviation Operations or Airfield Operations at a smaller airport/airfield is beneficial.

Areas of expertise:

- *Commercial Aviation*
- *Military Aviation*
- *Private Aviation*
- *Security*

Additional Resources:

- Airports Council International
<http://www.airports.org/>
- Airports Council International - North America
<http://www.aci-na.org/>
- Earth to Orbit: Engineering Design Challenges
<http://eto.nasa.gov/>
- Graduate Student Researchers Program
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Graduate.Student.Researchers.Program.Brochure/.index.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration
<http://www.faa.gov/>
- MATHCOUNTS Competition
<http://mathcounts.org/>
- Minority University Research and Education Programs
<http://mured.nasaprs.com/>
- NASA Cooperative Education Program for college students
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Educational.Services/NASA.Education.Programs/Student.Support/NASA.Cooperative.Education.Program/.index.html>
- NASA Jobs
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- NASA SHARP Internship Program for high-schoolers
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>
- NASA Student Employment
http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm
- NASA Student Involvement Program student contests
<http://www.nsip.net/index.cfm>

What can I do right now?

- Join a Scouting organization.
- Become an Explorer Scout.
- Join an organization like Civil Air Patrol (CAP).
- Visit an airport and carefully observe the action:
 - transportation to and from the airport
 - the movement of people from outside to inside the terminal
 - the movement of aircraft and vehicles around the runways, taxiways, and at the gates.
- Take a first aid or CPR class.
- Volunteer to be on the safety/emergency planning committee for your school.

- Revolutionary Vehicle Concepts and Systems student competition
<http://avst.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.html>
- Tech-Interns.com
<http://www.tech-interns.com/>

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http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational_topic

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<http://quest.nasa.gov/people/index.html>

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